Modernisation and Expansion of Postal Network in Orissa

3724. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step in the direction of modernisation and expansion of postal network in Orissa in 8th Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the funds earmarked for the expansion and modernisation of postal network in 9th Five Year Plan period in Orissa; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken in the direction of modernisation and expansion of the postal network in Orissa in the 8th Five Year Plan period are as below:

1. Opening of 94 Extra Departmental Post Offices.

2. Opening of 12 Departmental Sub Post Offices.

3. Opening of 35 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras.

4. Installation of 98 Multi Purpose Counter Machines.

5. Installation of 2 Local Area networks for Savings Bank work.

6. Savings Bank Control Organisation computerisation in 18 Head Post Offices.

7. Modernisation of 2 post offices.

8. Installation of 3 very Small Aperture Terminals.

9. Setting up of 14 Extended Satellite Money Order centres.

10. Computerisation of 1 mail office.

11. Modernisation of 2 mail offices.

12. Computerisation of Postal Life Insurance work in Orissa Postal Circle.

(c) and (d) The outlay for the draft 9th Plan Department of Posts which is yet to be finally approved is Rs. 550 crores. This includes a provision of Rs. 414.94 crore for expansion of postal network and modernisation in the country. State wise or Postal Circle wise outlays have not been proposed in the 9th Plan. Postal Circle wise provision of funds is made when Annual Plans are implemented. During 1997-98, the Orissa Postal Circle for expansion of the postal network and modernisation.

Waitlisted Persons under Non-OYT in Patiala District of Punjab

3725. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list in the Patiala district of Punjab under non-OYT scheme as on 31st March, 1998; and

(b) whether the existing capacity of telephone exchanges in the district is being augmented to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As on 31.3.98 the number of persons on the waiting list under the Non-OYT General category was 15873 and Non-OYT Special category was 13.

(b) Yes, Sir. Expansion of 20,400 lines of switching capacity has been planned during 1998-99 to clear the existing waiting list.

Andhra Pradesh Government's Request to bring Down Telecom Tariff

3726. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to being